

# Renters Rebate Is Back!

HHS serves as the City’s designated municipal agent to administer the Connecticut Renter’s Tax Relief Program. Through the State’s Office of Policy and Management (OPM) the program provides a reimbursement for Connecticut renters who are elderly and/or totally disabled with incomes that do not exceed certain limits established by the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The statewide application period is between May 15 and September 15<sup>th</sup> annually.

This year the HHS Renter’s Rebate Team inclusive of several community partners processed a total of 5660 payable applications. At the end of the program season these applications were all submitted to the OPM to be processed for individual payments.

The checks are scheduled to be mailed out by OPM mid-October of this year.

The Rebates checks can be up to \$900 for married couples and up to \$700 for single persons which represents in total approximately 3 million dollars in anticipated income.

Dr. Raul Pino, Director, states *“In today’s economy this added income will make a big difference in the lives of our elderly and disabled residents who have not had a cost of living adjustment in their social security and disability benefits in the last three years.”* He would also like to take seize this opportunity to send a personalized *“thank you”* to all the community partners and the HHS Rent Rebate Team for a job well done for the successful operation of the 2011 Renters Rebate Program.

For homebound residents, it is encouraged to send a friend or family member. To obtain a full list of rebate sites or require additional information, give us a

call at 860.757.4730.

- ◇ Pope Park May 15-25
- ◇ Shepherd Park May 29-31
- ◇ Smith Tower June 1
- ◇ Parker Memorial June 4-15
- ◇ Parkville Senior CTR June 18
- ◇ First & Second village
- ◇ Tuscan Homes June 20
- ◇ Mi Casa June 21-22
- ◇ Dutch Point June 25-27
- ◇ SANA (Hi-Rise Building) June 28-29

**Note:** Applications will be completed between July 2-6, 2012. Renters Rebate appointment can be made after June 18 for July 9 through Sept 14 by calling 860.757.4730.

# Healthy Hartford News

Hartford Department of Health and Human Services



Pedro E. Segarra  
Mayor



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HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Community Health Needs Assessment

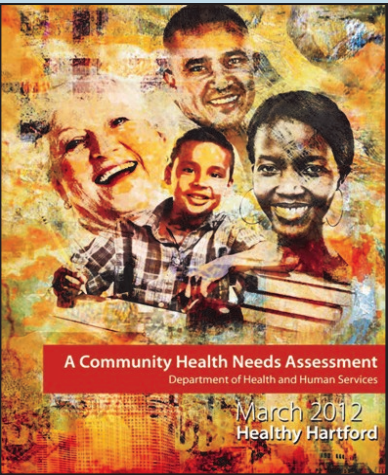
City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with area health care providers and community-based organizers, recently completed the 2012 Hartford Community Health Needs Assessment. The report was unveiled to the public on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at a press conference held in City Hall.

Following an intensive data collection and analysis process, which included key informant interviews and a face-to-face resident survey, the partnership produced a comprehensive health assessment report that frames health outcomes in terms of their relation to community conditions such as housing, employment, education, and poverty. “It is the goal of the community health needs assessment to describe the health status of the population, identify areas for health improvement and, determine factors that contribute to health issues,

and identify assets and resources that can be mobilized to address public health improvement,” says Mayor Pedro Segarra.

Community partners engaged in this process included representatives from Connecticut Children Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, the University of Connecticut Health Center, and Hartford Urban Alliance. “Without the contribution of all the members of this partnership and their respective organizations, this report would not have been possible,” says Dr. Raul Pino, Acting Director of Health and Human Services. “Their commitment to this project shows their dedication to improving the health of Hartford residents,” says Pino.

The members of the partnership, and their respective organizations, have made a commitment to continue regular meetings to identify strategies to address and monitor the priority health concerns identified in the report. The full Community Health Needs Assessment report and summary of key findings can be found on the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services website at



Teen child-bearing has generally been on a long term decline in the United States since the late 1950’s. Despite this decline, the U.S. teen birth rate remains one of the highest among industrialized countries. The U.S teen birth rate declined 9 percent from 2009 to 2010, reaching a historic low at 34.3 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. From 1991 to 2010, the rate dropped 44 percent. In 2010, fewer babies were born to teenagers than in any year since the mid 1940’s.

Despite progress, disparities by racial/ethnic groups persist. In Hartford, the 9.5 percent population growth from 200-2009 has been particularly pronounced among African and Hispanic Adolescents. Hartford is also noted for high birth rates among its young women with striking disparities between racial and ethnic groups in the City. Data shows that the Northeast, Asylum Hill, Frog Hollow and Barry Square neighborhoods had the

highest rate of total resident births to women of all ages in 2008. The highest number of births to women under 20 years of age were revealed in Barry Square and Frog Hollow.

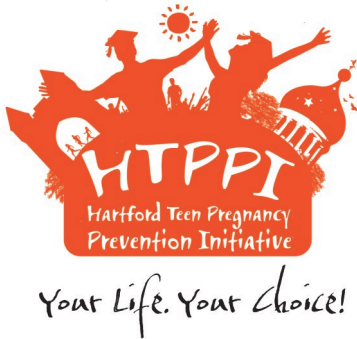
The younger a woman is when she gives birth, the less likely she is to have received adequate prenatal care, to give birth to a baby of normal weight, or to have a baby who will survive its first year of life. Early deaths of infants of young mothers in Hartford can be prevented by adequate prenatal care, personal health behaviors and family and parenting support. HHS is

working to address many of these areas, specifically personal health behaviors through a CDC funded effort, Integrating Services, Programs, and Strategies through Community-Wide Initiatives. This multi-component, community-wide endeavor to decrease the rates of teen pregnancy, STI’s and HIV among the teen population in Hartford, with a direct focus on Latino and

African American youth consists of several components.

As of Spring 2012, a number of community based agencies are working to support the efforts through the implementation of evidence based interventions approved by the CDC. Typically, evidence based teen pregnancy prevention programs address specific protective factors on the basis of knowledge, skills, beliefs and attitudes related to teen pregnancy.

Thanks to our community partners, four different evidence based interventions will be implemented beginning Summer 2012. Mi Casa, Family Life Education Center, Inc., Community Renewal Team, Family Life Education, Lawson Chapel Ministries, Catholic Charities, University of Connecticut Health Center and The Artists Collective are all offering 1 of four different interventions to youth ages 11-19 in the City completely free of charge. For more information, and how you can become involved, please contact Carmen Chaparro at [chappc001@hartford.gov](mailto:chappc001@hartford.gov).





# Ryan White Part A Program: At A Glance

In 1996, the City of Hartford received designated federal funds under the appropriations of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (C.A.R.E.) Act of 1990, and as reauthorized and amended in 1996, 2000, 2006 and again in 2009. Historically, the federal appropriations have supplied resources for medical and support services for low-income, uninsured and underinsured people living with HIV disease. This legislation continues to represent the largest dollar investment specifically for the delivery of services for poor or underserved People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and it provides emergency assistance to localities that are disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic.

There are approximately 1,212,381 persons living in the Greater Hartford Transitional Grant Area (TGA), which is comprised of Hartford, Middlesex and Tolland Counties. Intravenous Drug Use (IDU) has historically been the primary mode of transmission for HIV in the TGA. However, the most recent epidemiological data indicate that male to male sex (MSM) is replacing IDU as the primary risk factor. Six percent of HIV/AIDS cases are in Middlesex County, 3 percent are in Tolland County. Ninety-

one percent are in Hartford County, with the state's capital, Hartford, accounting for 54 percent. During fiscal year 2011 which began on March 1, 2011, and ended on February 29, 2012, there were approximately 3,007 clients who accessed Ryan White Part A services in the TGA, of which 2,245 clients were PLWHA.



The City of Hartford's Ryan White Part A program funds both CORE Medical Services and Support Services, which must be linked to medical outcomes. Since 2007 the TGA has been on a funding rollercoaster. Changes in the way Ryan White formula funding was determined under the Ryan White HIV Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, resulting in the loss of Ryan White funding for the TGA. A loss of this magnitude dealt a severe blow to the HIV continuum of care that was largely supported by Ryan White funds. The Connecticut legislature, fearing a health care crisis in the state, responded in June 2007 by including 1.1 million dollars in the state's FY 2007-08 budget, and projected a similar amount for the state's 2008-09 budget, so that the Hartford TGA could restore services that were cut as a result of the loss in Part A funding. In 2008, the

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TGA also received a one-time grant from the federal government in the amount of \$870,000 under the Consolidated Appropriation Act to help offset the Ryan White FY 2001 losses.

Although the state replacement funding ended in June 2009, the TGA was able to continue funding core medical services at roughly comparative levels in fiscal year 2009 because the federal government extended the one-time federal grant under the Consolidated Appropriation Act for another year under the 2009 Economic Stimulus legislation. In 2010 the TGA again received one time grant funding, this time in the amount of \$365,842. In 2011 the "Stop Gap" Ryan White funding was \$413,487.

For the past five years, the TGA has benefited to various degrees by special appropriations from the state legislature and Washington. The graph below illustrates historical trends in the Greater Hartford TGA Ryan Part A Program's funding from 1996 to the present.

Through this entire systematic upheaval the City's Ryan White program maintained its focus on its original goal; ensuring that individuals living with HIV/AIDS residing in the Hartford TGA receives the services and support that translates in increase health outcomes. By the end of fiscal year 2011, 2,245 HIV-positive individuals received a gamut of services from primary medical care to housing placement.

# HHS Tips For A Healthy and Safe Summer



With the change of season comes new risks that may threaten the health of you and your family. Among the many risks to consider are bugs, grilling, asthma triggers and overall food safety. For asthma, there are several precautions that you and your family should consider, such as:

- Keep allergies under control.
- Take asthma medicines as prescribed.
- Keep inhaler with you at all times.
- Check weather reports for humidity levels and pollen counts.
- Avoid playing or being around freshly cut grass.
- Wear gloves and filtered mast when gardening.
- Use air conditioning to help lower indoor humidity and when in the car on the days pollen and humidity are high.
- Clean air conditioner filters regularly.
- Use an indoor air filter/purifier.
- Use a dampened cloth when dusting furniture.

Whether you are planning a cookout indoors or outdoors, you can reduce your risk of getting foodborne illnesses by following

basic food safety tips. Key food safety tips include:

- **Practice good personal hygiene** – Wash hands with soap and warm running water before handling food, especially after using the toilet, changing a baby's soiled diaper, or touching animals.
- **Cook foods adequately** – Use thermometer to make sure meat and poultry (including ground) are cooked to safe temperatures.
- **Avoid cross-contamination** – Clean food preparation surfaces with hot soapy water before and after food preparation. Wash knives, cutting boards, and food preparation surfaces with hot water and soap after contact with raw poultry, meat, and seafood.
- **Keep foods at safe temperature** – Keep cold food at or below 40F and hot food at or above 140F.
- **Avoid foods and water from unsafe sources** – Use water from a safe water supply for drinking and rinsing fresh produce. When drinking milk and fruit juices, make sure they are pasteurized.

For outside grilling, always remember to:

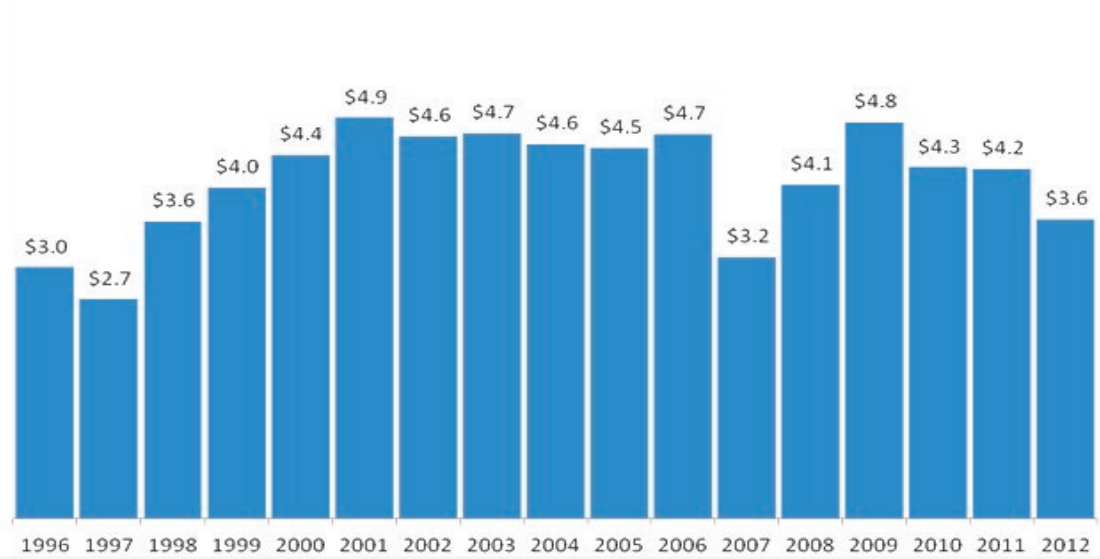
- Safety first-Keep children away from grill and always have either a container of water near or a fire extinguisher.
- **Proper use of charcoal & grills-**

- ⇒ **Never bring charcoal grills indoors.** Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.
- ⇒ **Always check the air tubes** that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease.
- ⇒ **Check grill hoses** for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Also, make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- ⇒ **Check for leaks!** If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
- **Proper food handling**-whether you are cooking indoors or outdoors, always cook to proper temperatures and chill or refrigerate promptly.
- **Hygiene**- Wash hands and cooking utensils before and after touching food.

Lastly, take precautionary measures against mosquitoes whenever you and your family are outside. Always remember that standing water attracts mosquitoes, and always protect you and your family by:

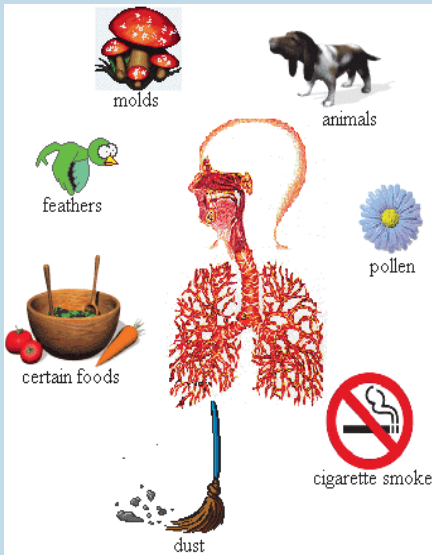
- Using **insect repellent**.
- Avoid dressing in **clothing** with bright colors or flowery prints.
- **Remove visible stinger** from skin; gently scrap it off horizontally with a credit card or finger nail. **Avoid scented** soaps, perfumes or hair spray.

Ryan White Part A Award History (millions)



**Note:** the graph does not depict the state funds awarded in 2007-08 and similarly in 2008-09 to offset the losses in federal funding for those fiscal years.

## Asthma Triggers



## Food Safety



## Mosquito

